

1461

LUCAS Detected:
OR, A
VINDICATION
OF THE
SHERIFFS and COMMONS
OF THE
CITY of DUBLIN;

From the scandalous Aspersions contained in a Fourth LETTER to the Commons and Citizens.

*Who steals my purse, steals trash; 'tis something, nothing;
'Twas mine, 'tis his; and has been slave to thousands;
But he, that filches from me my good name,
Robs me of that, which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed.* Othello.

K By JAMES TAYLOR, one of the Commons.

The SECOND EDITION, Corrected.

D U B L I N :

Printed for PETER WILSON, Bookseller in
Dame-Street. 1749.

[Price Two Pence.]

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Proceedings of the Sheriffs and Commons of the City of *Dublin*, at a Post Assembly held at the *Tbolfel*, the 4th Day of *August*, 1749.

ORDERED, that a Pamphlet, Intituled, *Lucas Detected*, or a Vindication of the Sheriffs and Commons of the City of *Dublin*, from the Aspersions contained in a Fourth Letter to the Commons and Citizens, by *James Taylor*, one of the Commons, be Read: The same was Read accordingly.

Resolved, that the Thanks of this House, be returned to our worthy Member, *James Taylor*, for his Vindication of the Honour and Dignity of this House, in Answer to the scandalous Aspersions thrown upon them by *Charles Lucas*, in his Fourth Letter to the Commons.

And the Sheriffs returned him their Thanks accordingly.

Ordered, that the said Resolution be entered into the Journal of this House, and inserted in the public Papers.

Signed by Order,
James Goddard; Cl. Com.



LUCAS Detected:
OR, A
VINDICATION
OF THE
SHERIFFS and COMMONS, &c.

WHEN I saw it advertised in the News Papers, that a Fourth Letter from Mr. Lucas, with some Animadversions on the late Proceedings of the Commons, was suddenly to make its Appearance; I expected nothing less, than that he would have refuted the Charge then laid against him by their unanimous Vote, of his publishing, maliciously and scandalously, a notorious Untruth: Or that he would have been ingenuous enough to have confessed his Error, and paltrated the Matter in such a Manner, as to have clear'd himself, at least, of the Malice and Scandal. But alas! how has he deceived me? instead of clearing himself from these odious Imputations, his Fourth Letter is a most shameless impudent Invective against the Commons, without his once attempting

attempting to prove the Fact in Question to be true, or to disprove the Charge against him, upon which he has been most justly censured.

Indeed, I must own, it is with some Reluctance I have taken up my Pen, to make such Remarks and Observations on this Gentleman's Writings and Conduct, (I beg Pardon, *Incon-
diary* I should have said; for his abusive scurrilous Writings plainly prove he has no sort of Title to that Character,) as I presume must occur to every thinking, unprejudiced Person: And I must confess it was my Opinion, that Silence was the properest Answer to all that Load of Calumny and Detraction, Falshood and Abuse, that the Works of this Person abounds with; for had he been of Consequence enough, it is more than probable, by this Time, the just Punishment the incensed offended Law might have inflicted on him, would have rendered him a sad Example and Warning to all future impudent daring Libellers.

But, as Enthusiasm is a Madness, and a certain Sign of a wrong confused Head, he has hitherto escaped condign Punishment, as much out of Pity to his Infatuation, as out of Contempt of his Person:

At first View, it looks some how unaccountably strange, that his Harangues and Writings should be so favourably received by some Persons as of late it seems they have been; yet if we judiciously consider the Bent and Drift of his Discourses, there is nothing new or extraordinary in it; you'll find, that every Mountebank meets with the like Applause from the giddy unthinking Mob, upon his first Appearance: The Empirick fails not by aspersing the most deserving of the Faculty, to impose his sophisticated Wares on those deluded Fools, and in Return, robs them of their Senses and their Money, until his deceitful Promises and Impositions are exposed, he is found out, then vanishes, and is heard of no more. So the Novelty of haranguing Corporations for Hours together, must, to be sure, for a while, draw a Crowd after it. Then, for the lowest Class of the People to be told, that they are as good and better than their Superiors, must be very agreeable and pleasing to them; to demolish and bring down the Magistrates and
Persons

Persons in the Highest Stations in the Kingdom, to their Level; to slander, abuse and calumniate the Good and Great, contrary to Truth and common Sense, has ever been the successful Practice of seditious designing Incendiaries to raise themselves an Audience, and has ever been greedily swallowed by the deluded Multitude.

The Commons, in the last Assembly, being thoroughly sensible of the many gross Misrepresentations and Falshoods which this Author, with the most unparalleled Assurance, has propagated and imposed upon the Unwary for Facts and Truth, thought it incumbent on them to detect him in a Matter that concerned themselves, least by acquiescing to the Charge, it might be taken for granted, and for Matter of Fact. In his second Letter he expresses himself to the following Effect: "That he had found, upon speaking to some of his Acquaintance, that you, Gentlemen of the Commons, were, as usual, but partially summoned; that he had found in a principal Street, in which several Brothers live, that but some of the Brothers had the Disgrace to be summoned, &c." The Inference from the above Paragraph is plain and natural; by partial summoning, and that but some of the Brothers had the Disgrace to be summoned, is plainly implied, That the Officer of Commons, or the Person by him employed to summons the Commons, was directed by some superior Authority to summons but a few, or a select Number of the Commons.

That this is a Fair Conclusion from the Premises, I submit to the Determination of every impartial Reader. Now, how is it possible for the Commons to come at the Truth of this Charge of partial Summoning, than by a strict Examination of their Servants, and their Members? The Officer of Commons declares upon his Oath, that he never neglected to serve or cause to be served all Summons's: That he never willingly or designedly omitted serving any particular Person by Order of the Lord Mayor, or any other Person: That he never received any Instructions from any Lord Mayor, or any other Person, to omit Summoning any Member of the Commons: To the best of his Knowledge, Remembrance, or Belief. The Commons in an exceeding full House, (above Ninety being present) are called upon to declare, if any one of them
could

could charge the Officer, or his Deputy, with any Neglect; but not one of the Commons could be found, (and where he found them is, I believe, a proper Question) that could Charge the Officer, or his Deputy, with any such Neglect. Though I am very sure there were some present who are his Pupils, that would most gladly have embraced the Opportunity of impeaching the Officer, had they the least Room or Occasion for so doing.

The Hardships then that Mr. Lucas complains of in the Commons prejudging him; of the poor Culprit's not being allowed the Benefit of Examining and bringing Witnesses to confront them before he was found guilty of High Crimes and Misdemeanors; is such pitiful Subterfuge and Jesuitical Sophistry, that its not worth taking Notice of. The Cause has been brought to an Issue, and a fair Judgment given: The two Points to be considered are; *First*, Whether Mr. Lucas be Author of the censured Paragraph or not; and *Secondly*, Whether the Facts therein contained be true or false. As to the First, he avows himself to be the Author, so that there's no Occasion to call Witnesses to a Fact confessed; And *Secondly*, The Officer of Commons gives all the Satisfaction in Relation to *partial Summoning* the Nature of the Charge will admit of, strengthened with this material Circumstance, that *not one of the Commons* then present, the only proper Accusers, could charge him with any *partial Summoning* or Neglect of his Duty. Therefore, whether the censured Paragraph is not only False, Malicious, and Scandalous, but Wicked too, (since to propagate and vend Untruths is most abominably wicked) I leave to every unprejudiced impartial Reader to determine. Why has not this malicious Slanderer since produced? Why has he not named in his Fourth Letter his Evidence to justify the Truth of his Assertions? Where are those Acquaintance formerly so easily found? Where are those Brothers in a principal Street, that but some of them had the Disgrace to be summoned? Why don't they stand forth and support their Champion? No, not a Man in the City is to be found to support this infamous Falshood of partial Summoning, but himself; though I aver it for Truth, he has spared no Pains and Flatteries to cajole and wheedle his blind Associates to assert the Truth of his Assertions in the censured Paragraph. Therefore, with Justice and Reason, we may fairly conclude him to be not
only

only the Propagator, but also the Inventor of this notorious Untruth.

Indeed, I am glad to find that he is so conscious of the pitiful Subterfuges and lame Evasions he has made use of, in his Fourth Letter against the Commons, that he has judged it necessary to appeal in an Advertisement, dated two Days after his Letter to the unprejudiced Citizens and honest dispassionate Men, (implying and asserting in his Fourth Letter, that there are none such in the Commons), and leaves them to judge of the Truth of his Assertions, and the Justice and Judgment of the honorable Sheriffs and Commons from five Considerations. How detestable must he be! (pardon my Warmth, gentle Reader) How consummate his Impudence! still to maintain and brazen out this Falshood in the Face of Truth and the World. Must he not know that one good credible Witness, is more material in proving a Fact, than an hundred of his sophistical Considerations. Yet even in his offered Considerations, he with great Confidence asserts two palpable Untruths. *First*, That his Name was artfully concealed, and *Secondly*, That the Motion was unanimously agreed too in an Assembly of one Alderman, one Sheriff, and *some Commons*, which plainly implies a few or inconsiderable Number. Is not his Name at full Length to the Letter out of which the censured Paragraph is extracted? Where is then the artful concealing of his Name? The stated Number of the Commons are Ninety-six, besides the Sheriff's Peers, at present, extremely few in Number. Upon a Debate, the House divided, and it appeared there were for one Question Forty-seven *Ayes* and Forty-three *Noes*; and on another Question, Thirty-eight *Ayes* to Fifty-three *Noes*. From hence it appears, that this Assembly of one Alderman, one Sheriff, and so inconsiderable a Number as upwards of Ninety of the Commons, unanimously voted the Paragraph in Question, to be false, scandalous and malicious. That it is so is past all Doubt; if he had used the Assertion of partial Summoning in the heat of an Argument, I should have been tempted to excuse him; but when he coolly sits down and avers it in Writing, and *least it should escape your Notice*, prints it in the *Italic Type*, is such a deliberate Piece of Malice it ought never to be forgiven.

The single Instance he gives of Mr. Hamilton Ribton's Charging the Officer with Neglect, I must not pass over.

That

That Mr. *Hamilton Ribton*, or even three or four of the Commons, might not be properly summoned, may possibly be Fact; yet granting this Supposition to be really true, it can be no sort of Foundation to support the Charge in the censured Paragraph; the Malice and Scandal consists in his falsely asserting of partial summoning. Upon Enquiry we'll find Mr. *H. Ribton* has for a very considerable Time past, advertised his Design of retiring from Business in the City, and in Pursuance thereof, his House and usual Place of Abode, actually shut up and untenanted. Where then must the Officer of Commons leave the Summons for him? must he go twenty miles into the Country to serve him? or if he does not, must it be brought as Evidence of his omitting or partial Summoning? But to what mean evasive Shifts is he driven by this most just and equitable Censure of the Commons?

If I were to follow this Incendiary, thro' all his Cobweb covered Artifices, vile Sophistry and daring Abuse, not only of the Commons in his Fourth Libel, but of the best and worthiest Men in the Nation, that he falls foul of in his other scurrilous Writings, it would take up much more of my Time, than I have Leisure to bestow on him. Therefore I shall only take Notice of a few Paragraphs in his Fourth Letter, and make such occasional Remarks on his Conduct, as must appear obvious to every impartial Reader.

After he has with great Satisfaction to himself, and as he fancies with the most successful Irony, rallied, the most Reverend Grave and mighty Senate of this poor beggar'd and undone City; he proceeds to tell them, out of his Great and Abundant Knowledge in the Law, how they ought to have proceeded in the Trial of the condemned Paragraph, and if you take his Word for it, it ought to be acquitted. He then proceeds as follows, "These are the Principles of Law and Justice. To these Privileges the meanest and worst of the King's Subjects are intitled, and whoever condemns a Man upon any other Terms, or in any other manner, unless he be of the present Commons of this abandoned City, who are always to be excepted; is a Robber and a Murderer." And in the next Page he goes on, "O! what Pity it is, they cannot make you all *Sheriffs*, all *Aldermen*, or all *Lord Mayors*! No Doubt, whatever Causes should come before you, in these Judicial Capacities, or hereafter may, as JURORS, would and shall be as fairly, as candidly, as clearly, as fully, as dispassionately

“ onately, as impartially tried and determined as mine. And
 “ it is to be hoped, that the List of the present Commons
 “ will be kept, as a most lasting, a most memorable and use-
 “ ful Record, during your Happy Lives, in the Offices of all
 “ succeeding Sub-Sheriffs of *Dublin*.” Whether there is suffi-
 cient in the above Paragraph, to ground an Action upon, at
 the Suit of all or any of the Commons, I am not Lawyer
 enough to determine; it ought to be well and seriously con-
 sidered.

Whenever any Person is indicted for Libelling; in his De-
 fence, the Law admits him to put the most favourable Con-
 struction on the most spiteful Inuendo's, and the most malici-
 ous Sarcasms may be interpreted in the mildest manner their
 Sense or Words can bear. What a Pity is it then, that by
 this Indulgence of our Laws, this Fellow by his artful Am-
 biguities, or, as he himself some where expresses it, has cau-
 tion enough to keep his Neck out of the reach of the Law,
 should escape with Impunity, after his grossly and indiscrimi-
 nately villifying and traducing some of the worthiest of our
 Citizens, and other Gentlemen, whose Honour and Integri-
 ty, Abilities and Uprightness, have rendered them the De-
 light and Pride of their grateful Country. Since therefore
 our Laws are insufficient to procure Satisfaction for those
 abused, these greatly injured Gentlemen, what shall protect
 him from their Resentment? nothing but the just Contempt
 he is held in, and this Consideration, that by stripping him of
 his Ears, it may be robbing of the Pillory. However, tho'
 he has hitherto escaped the just Chastisement due to his
 Demerits; tho' *Hudibras* very humourously assures us,

That Man is sure to lose,

Who fouls his Hands with dirty Foes :

It may be, Men may not always be in a Mood to pursue the
 Christian Precept of doing good to those that despitefully use
 them. Let him take care if he pursues his Course; he may
 meet with some Person as mad as himself, who may make him
 a sad and mutilated Example to all Slanderers and Detractors.
 His Admirers may then erect a Pedestal, on which let him be
 placed, that the *Irish Lucas* may vie with the *Roman Pas-
 quin*.

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How cruel, how base, how ungenerous is it to raise a Name for ones self, at the Expence of our Neighbours ? to build up our Fame, by depressing that of others is most barbarous. This method of growing great, is agreeable to that taken by the Barbarian, who meeting a Gentleman adorned with all the Accomplishments of Mind and Body, most unhumanly murders him, in Expectation of inheriting his Beauties and his Virtues.

The humble manner in which he begs the Question at his setting out in his Fourth Letter, that none should be so unjust as to suspect him, is to me a shrewd Hint, that he begins to be afraid that his Pretensions to true Patriotism, are truly discovered to be vain and artificial ; for my Part, methinks I see him smile on his Brother Patriots when they meet, as the famed Priest of old did on his Brother Augurs, whenever they had successfully imposed on the Credulous abused People, by their deceitful Auguries, and ambiguous Oracles.

True Patriotism is a Flower of a most tender and delicate Nature. The fine Soil it delights to be planted in, the Care and Diligence required in the Management and Cultivation of it, to bring it to Maturity, gives me great Room to fear we must expect but a very few slips of it to adorn even our finest Gardens in this remote frigid Region ; yet pretended Patriotism bears so near a Resemblance to the true, that without the greatest Care and Circumspection, without a very strict Examination, numbers of conceited forward Impostors will most impudently assure you their Grounds abounds with it, and attempt to impose their Weeds upon you, in the Place of sweetest Flowers. I would therefore most heartily recommend it to you, my Fellow Citizens, who have hitherto been imposed on by the mighty Promises of what he will do for you, if you Elect him your Representative, when he comes to sit in Parliament ; to try his Pretensions to true Patriotism, and examine his Conduct by the Touchstone of Reason and Experience.

As it is almost but the other Day, every one of us must remember the great Opposition and Struggle between those called Patriots, and those called the Court-Party, in a Neighbouring Kingdom ; what excellent Speeches, what warm Concern, what Anguish was expressed for their *lost*, their *ruined*, their *enslaved* Country : Who was there amongst those
boasted

boasted Patriots, that *Lucas*-like would not faithfully devote, and if Occasion required, sacrifice his Life to the Service of the Public ? Yet as soon as they had dispossessed their Opponents of their Places and Employments, how quickly did they fix themselves in their Room ? and afterwards laugh at and despise the Crowd who had joined them, and had helped them to fill up the Chorus in the Cry of Slavery and Oppression.

If Mr. *Lucas*'s Zeal proceeds not from the Principles which actuated these high-flown Patriots ; surely every one will allow the Likeness is not so remote, but it may be mistaken for it. I must own, I should be very loth to trust to Consequences, to determine the Truth of it ; and before I would believe his insidious Promises, I would carefully scan all his Actions.

That his Pretences to Virtue and Truth, Liberty and Disinterestedness, may be all Hypocrisy, is a Theorem, that I believe would not require the Sagacity of an *Archimedes*, or a *Sir Isaac Newton*, to demonstrate ; his known Behaviour in the *Militia* and Commons, breaths so much the Air of Mutiny, Sedition, and Licentiousness, that I judge him from his Fruits, not from his Professions ; the ridiculous Light he strives to place his Brother Patriot in, his not knowing whether he shews most of the *Irish-man*, the *Dutch-man*, or the *French-man*, in his common Deportment ; his many malicious Insinuations, with regard to his Veracity and Understanding while they were Rivals for the one vacant Seat, is very convincing to me he will stick at no means, even the worst, to obtain his Purposes.

Let any one carefully read his Works, and remark the many Inconsistencies, Absurdities, and Contradictions, with which they abound, it will plainly appear, he acts not from Principles, but Prejudice, and that his boasted Patriotism is confined to this Point, to acquire an Opportunity to enrich himself at your Expence, as he has not Industry enough to make a Fortune in his Trade or Profession.

Yet after all, I could applaud his Ambition, did he use honest and just Means to procure his Success ; but to impose upon the Weak and Ignorant, to abuse, villifie, and scandalize our Superiors, with manifest Falshoods, to spur up an ungovernable Mob, against their lawful Governors ; these

Things are of such a dangerous Tendency, that the Consequences may be fatal.

The many great Generals, and good and virtuous Citizens of *Athens*, that have fallen a Sacrifice to an enraged, misguided Populace, excited to Sedition by wicked artful Orators, and pretended Patriots, are melancholy Instances of what popular Fury may be guilty of; the just, the virtuous *Aristides* himself, was banished by a mistaken Resentment raised against him by the *Lucas's* of those Days.

The Commotions so often raised in the *Roman* State, by the turbulent, beggarly Tribunes, more endangered that Commonwealth, than the many Victories of the renowned *Hannibal*; and at one Time their final Dissolution had happened, if the Disorders had not been prudently appeased by the following Fable of the Belly and the Members.

“ Once upon a Time the Members of the Human Body,
 “ observing that the Belly did not toil as they did, re-
 “ belled, and refused the Aliments necessary for its Sup-
 “ port. Upon this, the Members grew weak in Proportion
 “ as the Belly became infirm, and soon found the Need
 “ they had of it; because the Belly first received the Nou-
 “ rishment, and afterwards communicated it to the Mem-
 “ bers. Thus, as the Senate and People form but one and the
 “ same Body, they will be destroyed by Divisions, and sup-
 “ ported by Concord.”

To pass from Examples of so ancient a Date to the modern Times, it is within the Memory of many of us, the irretrievable Misfortunes that happened to these Kingdoms, some forty Years ago, by the seditious Sermons delivered from the Pulpit by that Hellish Agent of *France* and *Rome*, the detestable *Sacheverel*, of infamous Memory; the glorious Battles won under the victorious Ensigns of the immortal Duke of *Marlborough* set at Nought; and the Labours of ten successful Campaigns blasted at one Blow; what could effect this but the uncontrollable Rage and Fury of riotous Mobs, quicken'd and spurr'd forward to Tumult and Rebellion, by infamous Falshoods and Cunning?

If the Conduct of our modern *Massienello* bears so near a Resemblance to that of the deservedly hated *Sacheverel*; if,
 like

like him, to accomplish his wicked Ends, he sets our Magistrates and Superiors in an odious and despicable Light; if, by treating them with the most unbecoming Freedom, and loading them with the opprobrious Names of Tyrants and Task-masters, asserting upon all Occasions, (tho' most unjustly without Proof) that they are ignorant, venal, and corrupt: How contemptible must they appear in the Eyes of those, that ought to reverence and respect them? The Causes then being the same, have we not Reason to fear the same direful Effects? I shudder at the bare Thoughts of it! Prevent it Heaven! And thou bright Goddess Liberty, bless'd Guardian Angel of our hitherto happy Island! Look down with Pity on your deluded Sons,——Remove the Mists that now obscure their Eyes, and teach them to distinguish thee from that hideous Phantom Licentiousness, that for our Sins you sometimes suffer to assume your borrowed Likeness!

As often as I reflect on the Farce lately acted in the Guild-Hall, I can hardly hold my Countenance: The Vote of complimenting him with his Freedom in a Golden Box, is the severest Satyr the most ill-natured Wit could invent; and certainly some pleasant Humourist there proposed it, with the Intention of burlesquing him, or a Party amongst them, without their perceiving it. But I hope the worthy Gentlemen of that Corporation, will have the Wisdom to keep their Money for better Purposes; and convert the Golden Box into a Copper Masque, with this Inscription:

A proper Cover for his Brazen Face.

In his Third Letter, from the Malevolence of his Disposition, he can't help reflecting on our late worthy Recorder, by a most barefaced Inuendo, of neglecting the Business of the City for that of the Bar. The real Compliments intended that Gentleman by the Commons, so happily, so elegantly expressed by one of our worthy Sheriffs, I hope convinced him of their Respects for him, and of their Satisfaction in his Administration. The warm Affection and tender Concern he shew'd in taking Leave of the Commons, raised in my Bosom an almost filial Reverence, and I am not ashamed to confess my Eyes paid the voluntary Tribute which a grateful Heart shews upon such moving Occasions. The
Attitude

Attitude he was placed in before me, the lively Emotions expressed in all his Features, was a Scene past all Description; I shall remember it while I live, and I hope this good Man will not be tempted to withdraw his Affection from us, for our having one scabby Sheep amongst us.

The Vanity and juvenile Confidence with which he presumes to animadvert in his Writings on the Opinions of this, and other great Sages in the Law, without any Experience in that Science, almost demonstrates it to me, that all his boasted Knowledge in our Civil Constitution, is superficial; and that he is as mere a Dabler in Politics and Government, as he is in Law. He certainly mistakes the Use of the Court of *Darien Hundred*, it being intended for no other Purpose, than that when the Assembly is over, the Acts thereof should be promulgated there, that all might be acquainted with them. Yet this is his Favourite Court, wherein he proposes, with the Assistance of his Free Journeymen Barber-Surgeons, &c. to undertake the Cure of our diseased Body Politic; and by plentiful Evacuations, by bleeding and cruel Incisions, and Amputations, to ease it of its Plethory; here he intends, by pronouncing his single *Veto*, to stop all the Proceedings of the City. Strange Creature! Might not a poor Plowman, with equal Propriety, when it was the Custom formerly, at the End of a Session, to proclaim, by the public Cryer, in all the Market Towns, the Acts of Parliament then enacted; protest against any Act he did not like, and call for the Suffrages of all the Freeholders in general, to maintain or invalidate the Laws?

It was with great Pleasure I observed a very sensible Member of the Commons, in the last Assembly, taking Notice of the Arrogance of this mighty Dictator, in assuming to himself the Merit of defeating all pernicious Schemes, and of his Impertinence (not being called, consulted, or ask'd) to presume to manage and govern in all Things, all Ranks and Orders of Men in the City, as if there was not any Man of Understanding or Reason in it but himself; to direct how this Employment shall be disposed of, and how that Office shall be filled up; of his offering to impose his ridiculous Romantic Tests contrary to Law and common Sense, and of his officious intermeddling in every Point of the Administration of our City Government. If his Behaviour in low Life is so insolent and assuming, what may
not

not be expected should we confer any Honours on him, if we dissent in any one Point from his Way of thinking?

Has he not told the Chief Magistrate, That he was surprized he could give his Interest to any one of the Candidates for the Office of Recorder, without first acquainting him with his Intentions, and approving of his Motives? has he not had the Haughtiness to say, *This is the Gentleman you must make Recorder?*

If any Thing could hurt the Interest of the Gentleman he means well to; it must be his taking him by the Hand. What Regard can he expect the Commons will shew to his Recommendation, who has treated them in the abusive Manner he has done? No, I hope the Commons will have that Regard for themselves and their City, to chuse the Man most likely to discharge the Duties of that important Office, with *Honour* and *Dignity*, and that, without Respect to any Party or Faction, Favour or Affection, Friendship or Prejudice. The Lives and Fortunes of many of the Citizens, are every Day submitted to the Determination and Judgment of our Recorder; and if he be not a Man of Great Knowledge, and unquestionably distinguishable Abilities in his Profession, he must make lamentable Work of it.

Conscious as I am of my Want of Talents equal to the Undertaking, I imagined no Consideration could tempt me to appear in Print. But when I found the worthy Commons of this City (of which Commons I have the Honour to constitute a Part, tho' the least worthy of them) stigmatized publickly to their Brethren and Constituents as *vile Robbers and Murderers*, whose Names are to be hung up as a useful Record in all succeeding Sub-Sheriffs Offices, that they are ready on all Occasions to violate their Oaths, for no other Reason than their *daring to detect* this hungry Mock-Patriot in his infamous Falshoods and Misrepresentations; the Respect I owe my Brethren, as well as out of Regard to myself, obliges me to offer what I could in their Justification, that the World may judge, whether they deserve such outrageous Treatment.

I cannot take Leave of the candid Readers without making some Apology, if I have at any time exceeded the
Bounds

Bounds of Moderation; the Subject I have taken up, and the Object of it, must be my best Excuse. Would it not disturb the Patience of a *Socrates*, to hear the best and worthiest Men traduced and abused? whose only Crimes are their exalted Characters and Stations, as much above the impotent Malice of this Reptile, as his Person is below their Notice. His being the Aggressor, warrants the using Reprials; ought he, can he expect any Decency to be observed with him, who uses none but with perfect Outrage, abuses every Body, for the single Reason of differing with him in Opinion? I always suspect the Cause that is supported by *Billingsgate* Arguments.

The Treatment he bestows on a Worthy Alderman, who with great Politeness and Civility, in his Letters, calls on him for an Explanation of some Insinuations which every one supposes to reflect on him, his impertinent Supposition, that the Letters were wrote with no other Design than to shew an Alderman could write, and the disingenuous Manner in which he evades coming to the desired Ecclaircissement, ought certainly to raise the Indignation of every honest Man; and I hope the Time is at Hand, when I shall see him as much despised by the enlightned disabused Citizens, as he has hitherto been followed by the Unthinking and Undistinguishing.

F I N I S.

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